



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped seven-tenths of a percentage point in August 2001 to 4.3 percent from the July 2001 revised rate of 5.0 percent. The unemployment rate dropped because of increased staffing at Idaho State University for fall semester and because the hiring of agricultural workers increased in preparation for an early harvest. The MSA's unemployment rate remained below Idaho's rate of 4.6 percent and below the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.9 percent.

Year-over-year, the Pocatello MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined five-tenths of a percentage point from 4.8 percent to 4.3 percent. Although the labor force increased by 900 people, the number of unemployed individuals declined by 140 and the number of employed individuals increased by 1,040. Despite softening of the national, state, and local economy, job creation continues and individuals are still able to find jobs.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 720 from July to August 2001. *Government Education* experienced most of that increase, growing from 3,770 in July to 4,480 in August. Those increases were at Idaho State University as staffing levels increased for fall semester. Notable increases occurred in *Construction* and *Government Administration* as new nonresidential construction projects continued, and road and storm water projects got underway. A slight dip in *Manufacturing* jobs occurred, but some of the decreases are continuations of the American MicroSystem's reduction-in-force and temporary reductions in other manufacturing sectors.

The year-over-year change in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* was minimal in August. The 80-job increase occurred in the *Service-Producing Industries* (580), which offset decreases in the *Goods-Producing Industries* (470). Both *Construction* and *Manufacturing* suffered job losses since last August, mostly because of job reductions at AmericanMicro Systems and Astaris in Pocatello, and the lack of major road construction projects this year compared to last year.

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	August 2001*	July 2001	August 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,340	40,360	39,440	0.0	2.3
Unemployment	1,750	2,040	1,890	-14.2	-7.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	5.0	4.8		
Total Employment	38,590	38,320	37,550	0.7	2.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	39,620	39,060	38,770	1.4	2.2
Unemployment	1,700	1,910	1,850	-11.0%	-8.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.9	4.8		
Total Employment	37,920	37,150	36,922	2.1	2.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	4,290	4,260	4,760	0.7	-9.9
Mining & Construction	1,710	1,630	1,840	4.9	-7.1
Manufacturing	2,580	2,630	2,950	-1.9	-12.5
Service-Producing Industries	27,890	27,190	27,310	2.6	2.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,810	1,820	1,880	-0.5	-3.7
Wholesale Trade	1,440	1,450	1,400	-0.7	2.9
Retail Trade	6,920	6,920	6,910	0.0	0.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,500	1,490	1,440	0.7	4.2
Services	8,110	8,170	8,040	-0.7	0.9
Government Administration	3,630	3,580	3,490	1.4	4.0
Government Education	4,480	3,770	4,150	18.8	8.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

SPECIAL TOPIC

Southeast Idaho Construction Activity

Southeast Idaho construction increased 19.4 percent during the first six months of this year over the first six months of 2000 according to the Wells Fargo Idaho Construction Report – June 2001. During the first six months of 2001, statewide construction increased just 6.8 percent, well below the activity level of Southeast Idaho. Most increases in Southeast Idaho occurred in nonresidential construction, which increased 121.4 percent, and in alterations & repairs, which increased 88.6 percent. Residential construction, though pale in comparison to nonresidential construction, increased 2.1 percent.

Construction activity varied widely between the different areas within Southeast Idaho. Construction charts 1 through 4 (see page 18) show percentage changes in construction from the first six months of 2000 to the first six months of 2001 for each Southeast Idaho county, the overall Southeast Idaho area, and the state of Idaho in total. Large increases in total construction for Bannock County, Power County, and Soda Springs City, outpaced decreases in Bingham County, Franklin County, and Montpelier City, driving Southeast Idaho's total construction activity higher than the state's. In residential construction, Bannock County was the only area to experience increased activity year-over-year. But the accumulative total for Southeast Idaho still showed an increase from the same period last year by 2.1 percent. Southeast

Chart 1: TOTAL CONSTRUCTION*
Percent Change from Jan-June 2000 to Jan-June 2001

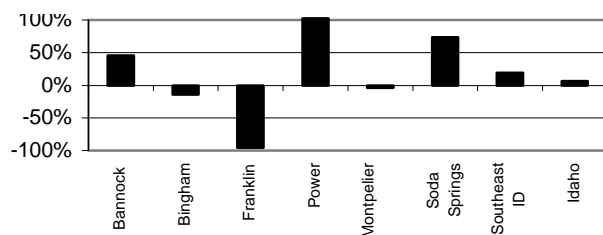


Chart 2: RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION*
Percent Change from Jan-June 2000 to Jan-June 2001

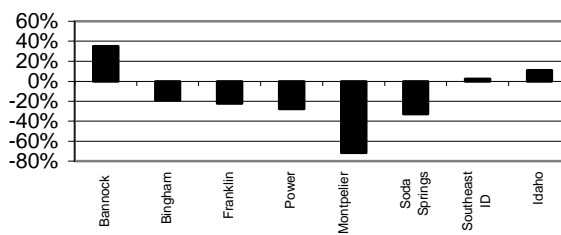


Chart 3: NONRESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION*
Percent Change from Jan-June 2000 to Jan-June 2001

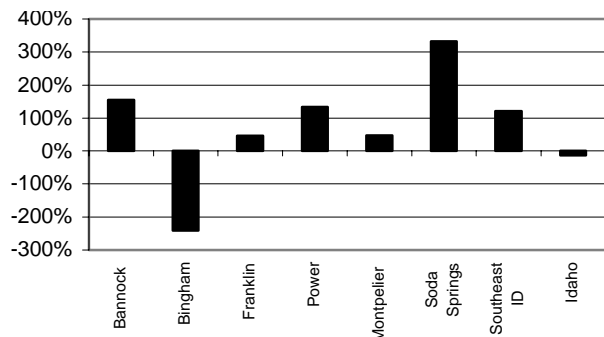
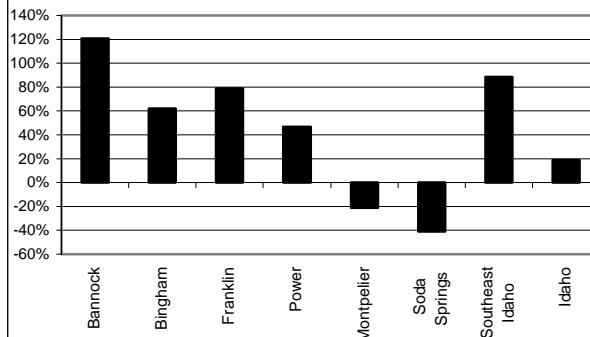


Chart 4: ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS*
Percent Change from Jan-June 2000 to Jan-June 2001



*Source: Wells Fargo Idaho Construction Report—June 2001

Idaho's residential construction, though still an increase from January-June 2001, fell short of the overall state increase by a wide margin of 16.6 percent. Nonresidential construction in 2001 was more positive in the first six months than last year. Every area in Southeast Idaho reported gains except Bingham County, which was down about 24 percent. Large gains in all other areas pushed the six-month total 127 percent above last year's six-month total while the state overall experienced a much lower rate of 49 percent. The last category, additions, alterations & repairs, experienced gains in Bannock, Bingham, Franklin, and Power counties, while Montpelier and Soda Springs cities experienced slight decreases. Overall, the Southeast Idaho area gained 89 percent over last year, far surpassing the statewide gain of 18 percent.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

- A ribbon cutting for the \$8.3 million renovation of Idaho State University's physical science wing was

held in August. Completion of the renovation was part of a much larger, two-phase project, which included building a \$20.3 million Physical Sciences Complex last year.

- Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot has started a \$350,000 remodeling project. The project will consist of upgrading all patient rooms, lobbies, and waiting rooms. Early next year, the hospital will add a rural health center and MRI suite. U-Copy Plus, a 24-hour self-service copy center in Blackfoot, has added Quik Banners Plus, a banner making business. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in August.

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